

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. In this Response, no claims have been amended, added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-20 and 22-24 are currently pending.

Applicants submitted an IDS under 37 CFR §1.97(b) on June 20, 2002. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references cited therein.

Claims 1-20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shkedy (USPN 6,260,024) in view of Chinnappan (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0011187).

In independent claims 1 and 22, applicants claim generating a generic specification for a set of functionally equivalent components and assigning a unique number to each group of functionally equivalent components.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Shkedy does not teach or suggest this limitation. See, e.g., Office Action dated 09/23/05, page 5, ¶11 to page 6 ¶12. With respect to this limitation, the Examiner states:

Chinnappan teaches that two products in the database may have identical features, but different PIDs [product identification numbers] simply because of a "difference in the PID assigned by the manufacturer" (emphasis added) (paragraph 46). Chinnappan subsequently teaches ....

(Office Action dated 06/19/06, page 3).

Applicants respectfully submit that Chinnappan does not teach or suggest assigning a unique number to each group of functionally equivalent components, as claimed.

Chinnappan discloses identifying a product with a hierarchy of identifiers: an FID (feature identifier) to identify a group features of the product, a PID (product identification number) to identify the product from other products in a class to which the product belongs, a CID (class identifier) to identify the class from other classes in a group, and a GUID (globally unique identifier) to uniquely identify the product. (Chinnappan, Abstract, ¶46).

Thus, the applicants agree with the Examiner that a GUID uniquely identifies a corresponding product. However, Chinnappan does not teach or suggest that the GUID is a unique number assigned to each group of functionally equivalent components, as claimed.

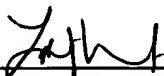
As neither Shkedy nor Chinnappan teaches or suggests each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 22, the combination does not render obvious claims 1 and 22 and associated dependent claims.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Lester J. Vincent at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: August 21, 2006

  
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